

REMARKS

The office action of April 6, 2007, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 4 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c).

Claims 1-3, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Schunk in view of Richter, Granier et al. and Heinemann et al.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Schunk in view of Richter, Granier et al. and Heinemann et al., and further in view of Tada et al.

Finally, it is noted that claims 5-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has canceled claims 4 and 5, and amended claims 1, 6 and 8.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the cancellation of claim 4 it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the claim under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 5. With this change it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-3, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is overcome and should be withdrawn.

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With the changes made in the present amendment it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 6, 2007

By:



Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: August 6, 2007